**Classics 216: Classical Mythology**

**Fall 2018, Block 4**

**Thomas Commons, Paris**

Instructor: Nathan Kish (nkish@cornellcollege.edu)

Office Hours: M, W 3:30-4:30 and by appointment, College Hall 310

**Required Texts:**

* Aeschylus, *The Oresteia*, translated by Peter Meineck. Hackett. (1998) ISBN-13: 978-0872203907
* Euripides, *Medea,* Diane Arson Svarlien, Hackett. (2008) ISBN-13: 978-0872209237
* Homer, *Iliad*,translated by Stanley Lombardo. Hackett. (1997) ISBN-13: 978-0872203525
* Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, translated by A. D. Melville. Oxford. (1986) ISBN-13: 978-0199537372
* Seneca, *Six Tragedies*, translated by Emily Wilson. Oxford. (2010) ISBN-13: 978-0192807069
* Trzaskoma, S. M., R. S. Smith, and S. Brunet, edd. *Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation*. Second Edition. Hackett. (2016) ISBN: 978-1624664977 (**=*ACM*)**

**Text of Possible Interest:**

Powell, B. B. *Classical Myth*. Eighth Edition. (2014) ISBN-13: 978-0321967046

**Course Goals:**

* Students will be introduced to the major gods, heroes, and myths of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds by critical readings of ancient literary texts and material objects;
* Students will investigate how ancient myths developed across genres, over time (in antiquity and beyond), and in different media, and examine how these transformations impact our contemporary conceptions of those myths;
* Students will learn to analyze, evaluate, and critique different kinds of sources and communicate their findings effectively in discussion, writing, and oral presentations;
* Students will learn how to find, use effectively, and evaluate information (print and electronic resources) in order to answer their own research questions;
* Students will become more familiar with the resources available for studying the ancient world and the humanities in general on campus and beyond.

This course supports the **Educational Priorities and Outcomes** of Cornell College and places an emphasis upon knowledge, inquiry, reasoning, communication, and intercultural literacy.

**Course Requirements:**

**Preparation, Attendance, and Participation**: Class attendance and active participation in discussion are vital to gaining mastery of the course material. Part of attendance and participation is preparation for class – come with questions and be prepared to share your observations of the previous night's assignments. Making connections between materials studied throughout the course is key to discovering and reflecting on the broader contours of classical mythology.

**Tumblr Blog**: You will create a Tumblr blog and throughout the course you will blog about the readings, class discussions, etc. You are highly encouraged to include different kinds of media in your blog (e.g. pictures, videos, texts). You are required to write ten entries (**roughly 250 words per entry**) over the course of the block, with no fewer than three entries in each of the first three weeks of the block. I encourage you to make your blog accessible to the rest of the class. For this assignment, I suggest that you write in a style that you think will be accessible and engaging to a more popular audience (in contrast to your papers, which should be written in an academic style). Please follow me on Tumblr (donatusfrutexparvus).

**Two short papers**: During the course each student will hand in 2 short papers written in response to the readings and discussions. Some topics will be provided to choose from. The length of the papers will require you to refine the topic somewhat according to your own interests. A (very) narrow focus is appropriate for this length of assignment. Please include a stated thesis, as well as evidence and argumentation to support it. Please cite all sources referenced. Papers should be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font and double-spaced.

**Final Project**: Description of final project TBA.

**Grading:**

* + Class Preparation, Attendance, Preparation 10%
  + Tumblr blog 15%
  + 10 posts throughout the block, with no fewer than 3 in each of the first 3 weeks
  + Must be finalized by 12:00 pm on Wednesday, December 19
  + Two papers 30%
  + Paper 1 10% (due 12:00 pm on Saturday, December 1)
  + Paper 2 20% (due 12:00 pm on Saturday, December 15)
  + Final project 45%
  + Parts 1 and 2 10%
  + Presentation 10%
  + Final paper 25%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following pattern:

A 100-93 B+ 89-87 C+ 79-77 D+ 69-67 F below 60

B 86-83 C 76-73 D 66-63

A- 92-90 B- 82-80 C- 72-70 D- 62-60

**Policies:**

**Attendance:** Since the class format, as well as a significant portion of the final grade, depends largely on discussion, attendance and participation are vital for successful completion of the course. Failure to attend class sessions will impact your final grade. Given the nature of the block system, it is particularly important to resolve any questions as quickly as possible. Illness and unforeseen circumstances do arise. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend a morning or afternoon session.

**Deadlines:** Assignments are due in class or (on weekends) via email as noted in the Weekly Schedule. Please consult with me in advance if circumstances arise that will prevent you from timely completion of an assignment.

**Academic Honesty:** Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College’s requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading “Academic Honesty” and [here](https://www.cornellcollege.edu/registrar/pdf/Academic%20Honesty.pdf).

**Accommodations:** Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see http://cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml. Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the block of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.

**Weekly Schedule**

**\*\***The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as the course progresses. Any changes will be announced in class or over email.

**Week 1: Origins**

1) Monday, November 26

10:00-11:00 am: Introduction to classical mythology; historical and geographic contexts

1:00-3:00 pm: Hesiod, *Theogony* 1-210 (in *ACM*) [7]

2) Tuesday, November 27

9:00-11:00 am: Hesiod, *Theogony* 211-1030 (in *ACM*) (23)

1:00-3:00 pm: Hesiod, *Works and Days* 1-201, Semonides 7 (7, 4 = 11) (both in *ACM*) [34]

3) Wednesday, November 28

9:00-11:00 am: Near Eastern myths (in Powell) (12), The Book of Genesis, selections

1:00-3:00 pm: Xenophanes (2), Diodorus Siculus 5.66-73 (8) (both in *ACM*); Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 1 (24) = 34 [46+]

4) Thursday, November 29

9:00-11:00 am: Research time; appointments available

1:00-3:00 pm: Homeric Hymns 2 (Demeter), 4 (Hermes), 5 (Aphrodite); Sappho 1; Callimachus *Hymn to Demeter* [31] (all in *ACM*)

5) Friday, November 30

9:00-11:00 am: Heroes, Monsters, and Civilization: Apollodorus, *Library* (31-45, 46-57) [26] (in *ACM*);

11:00 am-5:00 pm: Conferences. **Project stage 1 due 5:00 pm**

**Paper 1 due Saturday, December 1, 12:00 pm**

**Week 2: Epic**

6) Monday, December 3

9:00-11:00 am: Proclus, the Epic Cycle (5) (in *ACM*); Homer, *Iliad* 1, 2.1-533 (35)

1:00-3:00 pm: Ovid, *Heroides*, *Briseis to Achilles* (5) = [45] (in *ACM*)

7) Tuesday, December 4

9:00-11:00 am: Homer, *Iliad* 3 (15), 6 (16); Homer and the historians: Herodotus 1.1-1.5, 2.113-2.120 (5) Thucydides 1.1-1.12 (6) (both in *ACM*) = [37]

1:00-3:00 pm: Research time; appointments available

8) Wednesday, December 5

9:00-11:00 am: Homer, *Iliad* 8 (17), 9 (20) = [37]

1:00-3:00 pm: Research time; appointments available

9) Thursday, December 6

9:00-11:00 am: Homer, *Iliad* 16 (26), 18 (19)

1:00-3:00 pm: Homer, *Iliad* 22 (17) = [62]

10) Friday, December 7

9:00-11:00 am: Homer, *Iliad* 23.1-282 (9), 24 (25) = [34]

1:00-3:00 pm: Introduction to Tragedy; **Project stage 2 due 5:00 pm**

**Week 3: Tragedy and Reflection**

11) Monday, December 10

9:00-11:00 am: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* [66]

1:00-3:00 pm: Research time; appointments available

12) Tuesday, December 11

9:00-11:00 am: Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides* [94]

1:00-3:00 pm: Research time; appointments available

13) Wednesday, December 12

9:00-11:00 am: Plato, Cleanthes, Heraclitus, Lucretius, Cornutus, Sallustius, Fulgentius [38] (all in *ACM*)

1:00-3:00 pm: **Presentations**

14) Thursday, December 13

9:00-11:00 am: Euripides, *Medea* [62]

1:00-3:00 pm: **Presentations**

15) Friday, December 14

9:00-11:00 am: Ovid, *Heroides*, *Medea to Jason* (6) (in *ACM*); Seneca, *Medea* (29) [35]

1:00-3:00 pm: **Presentations**

**Paper 2 due Saturday, December 15, 12:00 pm**

**Week 4: Transformations: From Greece (and Troy) to Rome**

16) Monday, December 17

9:00-11:00 am: Research time

1:00-3:00 pm: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 3 (23), Book 10, Book 11.1-100 (30) [53]

17) Tuesday, December 18

9:00-11:00 am: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 12.585-Book 14

1:00-3:00 pm: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* Book 12.585-Book 14 [60]

18) Wednesday, December 19

**12:00 pm: Tumblr Blog must be finalized and Final Paper due.**